



Amesbury

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Dear Amesbury Resident:

It has been said that the future depends on many things, but to a large extent it depends upon us. For the first time in over twenty years we have re-charted our course into the future with the completion of the 2004 Amesbury Master Plan presented here. By far the most comprehensive and detailed planning tool that the Town has ever produced, this Master Plan is our policy guide that interprets our community's goals for managing, accommodating and directing future development. It is the result of an eighteen-month process during which hundreds of Amesbury citizens participated, over sixty of whom gave thousand of hours of voluntary service to bring the plan to completion.

As required by Massachusetts General Law, we began the task in December 2002 by forming a Steering Committee and six focus groups comprised of a broad spectrum of community residents and representatives of Town boards and committees. The focus groups concentrated on six elements of the plan: Cultural/History/Natural Resources, Growth Management, Economic Development, Housing, Transportation, and Public Facilities/Infrastructure. These groups followed a four-stage program that included visioning sessions, data collection and analysis, report of existing conditions, development of content, action steps and funding sources, final review and adoption.

The guiding principle for shaping a collective vision for Amesbury came from our Community Vision Statement, "Celebrating Our Past, Creating Our Future". Amesbury's long and rich history will always play an integral part in our decision-making as we continue on our path to the future. That is a value we have identified and embraced – a cornerstone of this document.

One of the basic principles of the Master Plan is its flexibility, which will allow us to use it as both a guide and a reference tool and will enable us to better accommodate and adjust to a changing world. I anticipate the formation of an Implementation and Oversight Committee annual review of the Master Plan to ensure that it accurately reflects our policies and goals in concert with the changing needs of our town and its citizens.

As I mentioned before, a great number of people gave of themselves to help formulate this plan. To all, including Town employees, consultants, and residents young and old, new and longstanding, I say, "Thank you!" for helping to create our future.

Sincerely,

David T. Hildt
Mayor



Amesbury

Master Plan Steering Committee

masterplansteeringcommittee@ci.amesbury.ma.us

Town of Amesbury

Town Hall, 62 Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913-2825

To the Amesbury Municipal Council:

On behalf of the entire Master Plan Steering Committee, it is with great pleasure that we submit the Amesbury Master Plan for your approval and adoption. In addition to the appropriations voted by the Council and the resources made available to the Committee by the Mayor and the Departments, countless volunteer hours have gone into the preparation of this Master Plan over the last 15 months by the Steering Committee and the members of the various Focus Groups.

As you know from your own participation, this Master Plan process has benefited from a tremendous amount of public involvement, including several well-attended Saturday morning sessions. Additionally, the assistance of the Department Heads and their staffs have been invaluable – from participating in the initial interviews in January of 2003, working with the consultants and the Focus Groups throughout the process, and reviewing our pre-submittal drafts.

A few words of special thanks go to Jennifer Raitt, Community Development Director; Nipun Jain, Town Planner; Deb Carey, Project Coordinator; and Joseph Fahey, Director of the Office of Community and Economic Development. This Master Plan would not be what it is today without their professional expertise, personal time commitment and dedication to this project.

Although the Steering Committee and the Focus Group Members are justifiably proud of their hard work, and highly recommend the adoption of this Master Plan, we are mindful that we certainly are not the only group with the interests of Amesbury at heart. We fully expect the Master Plan to provide continuing guidance to Amesbury as a 'living' document, and that it should be updated as needed as the town proceeds toward its Vision for the future. We applaud the on-going involvement of volunteers and support from community leaders as Amesbury realizes its goals.

Finally, we are very grateful for the opportunity to work on this important project. We look forward to the continuing development of Amesbury as one of the best communities in Massachusetts in which to live, to work, and to enjoy life to its fullest.

Very truly yours,

Donald C. Fuhrman
Co-chair, Master Plan Steering Committee

Robert W. Lavoie
Co-chair, Master Plan Steering Committee



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Co-chair, Master Plan Steering Committee

Robert W. Lavoie
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Acknowledgements

This plan was produced with input from over 250 Amesbury stakeholders, who “Celebrated Our Past, and Created Our Future!” Thank you to all who participated in public forums, interviews, design workshops, Focus Groups and other activities. Participants came from all parts of Amesbury, and represented the diverse interests of the community. This Master Plan is truly reflective of our collective vision for the future of Amesbury.



The Master Plan Steering Committee

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Christophe Courchesne
Thatcher Keezer
Leo Norton*
Betsy Shreve-Gibb

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Robert Courtney, Vice Chairman
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Merrimack Valley Planning Commission
Wild Water International

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Your support and
dedication of time and
energy helped make this
Master Plan a success.

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** Graduated MPSC members